

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 513

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize legendary Middle Tennessee State University track and field coach Dean A. Hayes.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great State and their elected representatives are extremely proud to honor one of the most accomplished and renowned coaches in intercollegiate track and field history; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) track and field head coach Dean A. Hayes is an exemplary tactician and motivator who has served with distinction during his legendary career; and

WHEREAS, no coach in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has cast such an extraordinary presence over intercollegiate track and field competition as has Coach Hayes; and

WHEREAS, a native of Naperville, Illinois, he began his illustrious coaching career in Chicago at St. Mel High School in 1959, before moving on to coach with distinction at De La Salle High School in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, his first collegiate coaching job was at his alma mater, Lake Forest College, in 1963, where he had competed himself as an NCAA student-athlete in the 800 meters, the long jump, and the triple jump; and

WHEREAS, two years later, he accepted the coaching job at MTSU, and his arrival marked a new class of track and field competition on the campus; focusing his recruiting efforts on jumps, relays, and securing top-notch competitors for his program, Coach Hayes is credited with opening up MTSU track and field to minorities and international athletes; and

WHEREAS, while coaching at MTSU and competing in the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), he guided his teams to twenty-nine OVC titles, and currently as a member of the Sun Belt Conference (SBC), he has led his teams to fifteen SBC championships; also with his eighteen career NCAA top twenty-five finishes, he stands as one of the most phenomenal track and field coaches in the history of the NCAA; and

WHEREAS, not only has he created one of the most dominant track and field programs in intercollegiate athletics, but Coach Hayes has established himself as a preeminent figure in track and field at the international level as well; an ambassador for the sport, he was selected to serve as head coach in four different international competitions, including the 1985 World University Games, the 1990 and 1998 Goodwill Games, the 1994 World Cup, and the 1997 World Championships; and

WHEREAS, with his distinguished coaching reputation preceding him, he was also chosen to serve as an assistant coach in four international competitions, including the 1978 U.S Olympic Festival, the 1981 World University Games, the 1983 World Championships, and the 1988 Olympic Games; because of his vast knowledge and expertise in the sport, he was selected to serve as a referee in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most fitting compliment Coach Hayes has received comes from the records his former athletes have amassed; Coach Hayes's system has produced forty-eight athletes holding eighty-two All-American honors, four national champions, and numerous international competitors and record holders; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Coach Dean A. Hayes evidences an unswerving commitment to excellence that has earned him many awards and decorations, including being named NCAA Division I Track and Field Coaches Association Outdoor Coach of the Year in 1981, OVC Coach of the Year fifteen times, and SBC Coach of the Year twelve times; and

WHEREAS, his heralded accomplishments and exceptional career have been recognized by his induction into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame,

Illinois Sports Hall of Fame, Mason-Dixon Athletic Club Hall of Fame, and the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hayes's influence and numerous contributions to MTSU and track and field are being recognized with the dedication and naming of the track and soccer stadium in his honor; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the City of Murfreesboro and the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, the existing track and soccer stadium is being upgraded and will be officially named the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium; and

WHEREAS, the new stadium and Olympic-sized track, which has been certified by the United States Track and Field Association, will feature eight running lanes measuring forty-two inches each and a user-friendly infield with a pole vault runway, javelin runway, high jump area, and a hammer and discus cage; it will also have the unique aspect of two long jump runways, allowing both the men's and women's team to either compete or practice at the same time; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hayes is one of the most respected and esteemed figures in intercollegiate and international track and field competition, and his coaching skills have garnered him the admiration of track and field aficionados throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, his momentous achievements aside, Coach Hayes is most proud of the love and support of his wife, Jan Hayes, and their daughters, Erin and Kara; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity who is admired and revered by many, Coach Hayes has always been humble about his much deserved fame; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this exceptional gentleman and his extraordinary life and coaching accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize legendary Middle Tennessee State University track and field coach Dean A. Hayes for his many accomplishments and contributions to track and field in the State of Tennessee, applaud him for his vaunted level of success and

his dedication to excellence, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we congratulate Coach Hayes on the MTSU track and soccer stadium being dedicated and named in his honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.